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Volume 27

Number 7 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.27, no.7

Article 6

1947

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Agnes Wells

Iowa State College

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Recommended Citation

Wells, Agnes (1947) "For Family and Business Success- Teach Men Homemaking," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 27 : No. 7 , Article 6.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol27/iss7/6>

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For Family and Business Success—

Teach Men Homemaking

by Agnes Wells

I FIRMLY believe that the skill and wisdom with which young people solve their home-making problems is an accurate measure of their success in the world outside," says Sarah Gibson Blanding, president of Vassar College.

For instance, she says, how can a man hope to succeed in politics or diplomacy if he cannot settle amicably the squabble of his 6 year-old and 4 year-old over division of the lollipops? How can he become a successful business man if he cannot work out a household budget? As a lawyer, how can he deal successfully in human relations if his own family is unhappy and out of hand?

Since the home plays such an important role in the life of both men and women after graduation, why should it not receive equal attention during high school and college?

Homemaking Courses

Most college women marry within 5 years after graduation. For this reason increased attention is given to homemaking in the curricula of women's colleges, says Miss Blanding in the *Woman's Home Companion* for December. Approximately the same proportion of men graduates become husbands and fathers within the same span of time. She feels that it is just as important to teach the fundamentals of home economics, budgeting, marriage and child psychology to students at Yale, Harvard and Princeton as to those of women's schools.

Jack and Jill, establishing a new home and founding a family, are creating the most fundamental unit of our civilization. Miss Blanding believes that they should map out a rough plan, encompassing the goals that seem most important to each. The duties and responsibilities of each should be agreed upon and the hours of the day divided equitably.

If Jill is to stay at home while Jack earns the living, then it is only fair that she should be responsible for keeping the house clean, marketing and preparing the meals. But she should budget her day so there'll be free time for outside interests and for intelligent companionship with her husband. But if she plans to keep her job after marriage, the household duties should be divided equally.

Wives Who Work

After there are children, the home duties are greater. Even though Jill is to be a career woman, she should devote the first few years to the care of her babies and the running of her home, says Miss Blanding. But it is during this time, when the children are young, that she must be careful to continue her professional and community contacts so that she will be ready to take up her career where she left off.

Miss Blanding admits that the education period is short and that courses for students must be selected



Husbands who have received training in the fundamentals of home management are better adjusted in coping with the problems in marriage. Many colleges are teaching such courses

carefully. But since the family and home are the cornerstones of our civilization, students need specific preparation for their responsibilities toward them.

"When one marriage in three ends in divorce we are faced with a problem in human relations which colleges cannot ignore unless they are to sever all connections with real life," comments Miss Blanding.

Many colleges have established courses in marriage, but most of them are superficial. She believes they should include not only courses on sex, but also economics, household budgeting of time and money, personality problems, child psychology and the duties of citizenship.

Miss Blanding believes that every college student, whether male or female, should be graduated with a working knowledge of the economics of home management. Each should have an understanding of how to prepare a budget of both time and money to effect the greatest efficiency in the use of each.